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Employment Situation, July 1986

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Bureau of Employment Security

Maine Division of Economic Analysis and Research

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BATH-BRUNSWICK LABOR MARKET AREA

The unemployment rate in the Bath-Brunswick Labor Market Area increased from 3.3 percent in June to 3.7 percent in July. This was the lowest July rate ever recorded in the area. Over the period, resident employment increased by 140 to 25,330, while unemployment increased by 110 to 970. Over-the-month employment gains were reported in tourist-related industries within retail trade and services. Other gains were recorded in contract construction and the manufacturing of electronic components. These gains were somewhat offset by seasonal layoffs in apparel and shoe manufacturing and nonteaching personnel in local government. Last year at this time, 1,330 local residents were unemployed and the unemployment rate was 5.1 percent. Recently, Bath Iron Works, Maine's largest private employer, was sold by the Congoleum Corporation to the investment banking firm of Gibbons, Green, van Amorongen LTD. According to a published report in the Boston Globe, company president William Haggett stated that "Business within the shipyard will continue under the same management organization. Last year the company won a \$322 million contract to build the lead ship of a new class of guided missile destroyers, the last new ship design this century. It has contracts for six guided missile cruisers and is completing the last of 24 frigates for the Navy. The company's present work backlog is valued at more than \$1 billion." Accordingly, the future of the shipyard should remain strong.

BIDDEFORD LABOR MARKET AREA

The unemployment rate in the Biddeford Labor Market Area rose sharply to 6.1 percent in July from 4.1 percent in June. The primary reason for this increase was the seasonal shutdown of several factories in the area, mainly in the textile mill products and leather and leather products industries. These temporary shutdowns contributed significantly to a rise in the number unemployed from 1,110 in June to 1,680 in July. Resident employment during the period fell from 26,030 to 25,880. In the nonmanufacturing sector seasonal employment increases occurred in retail trade and services, while local government employment fell somewhat with the closing of local schools. The local unemployment rate of 6.1 percent in July fell between the state and national rates of 5.6 percent and 7.0 percent, respectively.

LEWISTON-AUBURN METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

Traditional annual vacation shutdowns in local shoe, rubber, and textile manufacturing plants boosted the local unemployment rate in the Lewiston-Auburn Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) from 5.9 percent in June to 8.9 percent in July. Despite the increase in the local unemployment rate, the area was not as heavily impacted by vacation shutdowns as in past years when the shoe and textile industries comprised a much larger share of the local employment base. In fact, the July 1986 unemployment rate was the lowest local July rate recorded since 1969. The State's unemployment rate, which is not quite as effected by similar temporary shutdowns, increased from 4.9 percent in June to 5.6 percent in July. Meanwhile, the national unemployment rate dropped from 7.3 percent to 7.0 percent. Between June and July, local resident employment declined from 38,000 to 37,000, while unemployment increased from 2,400 to 3,600. Local industries which were most adversely effected by the vacation shutdowns, along with their respective job losses, were as follows: leather and leather products (-500), textile mill products (-300), and rubber and miscellaneous plastics products (-200). A seasonal loss of 300 nonteaching jobs was reported by local schools, while layoffs of 100 jobs each occurred in primary and fabricated metals, retail trade, and services. Gains of 100 jobs each were recorded in electrical machinery manufacturing and contract construction.

PORTLAND METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

Following historical seasonal trends, the unemployment rate in the Portland Metropolitan Statistical Area rose somewhat in July. This was the first such increase since December 1985. The unemployment rate rose from 2.8 percent in June to 3.1 percent in July, while the unemployment rate for the State followed a similar trend, rising from 4.9 percent to 5.6 percent. The national rate fell from 7.3 percent to 7.0 percent. Traditional temporary plant shutdowns in leather and leather products manufacturing, combined with local school closings, helped to force the number unemployed up from 3,200 in June to 3,600 in July. These job losses were more than made up for by the seasonal growth in retail trade, services, and contract construction. Resident employment increased from 112,100 in June to 114,200 in July. The July unemployment rate of 3.1 percent was nonetheless below the unemployment rate of 3.6 percent recorded a year ago.

RUMFORD LABOR MARKET AREA

The unemployment rate in the Rumford Labor Market Area climbed from 7.8 percent in June to 11.8 percent in July. Resident employment increased slightly from 7,600 to 7,620, while unemployment jumped from 640 to 1,020. During the month, the local employment situation was adversely affected by seasonal job losses in lumber and wood products, shoes, and local education. In addition, seasonal job gains in several nonmanufacturing industries fell below past years, due to the multiplier effect of lost earnings affecting 1,200 hourly workers involved in a labor management dispute at the Boise Cascade paper mill in Rumford. Last year at this time, 720 people were unemployed and unemployment rate was 8.3 percent.

WATERVILLE LABOR MARKET AREA

The unemployment rate remained unchanged in the Waterville Labor Market Area between June and July. Resident employment rose slightly to 21,190, while unemployment also rose a bit from 1,200 to 1,220. The resulting unemployment rate was 5.4 percent. A year ago, the unemployment rate was also 5.4 percent. At that time 1,230 were unemployed, while 21,340 residents were employed. The current local unemployment rate dipped below the statewide rate of 5.6 percent and remained well below the national rate of 7.0 percent. Locally, employment in local government declined due in part to local schools closing for the summer causing layoffs for nonteaching personnel. In manufacturing, employment gains in paper and allied products and food and kindred products were unable to offset employment losses in textile mill products and apparel. Most employment gains were in the nonmanufacturing sector, as hotels and restaurants continued to expand for the summer season.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE BY MAINE LABOR MARKET AREA, NEW ENGLAND STATES, AND THE UNITED STATES ^{1/}

AREAS	LABOR FORCE 2/			RESIDENT EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	July 86	June 86	July 85	July 86	June 86	July 85	July 86	June 86	July 85	July 86	June 86	July 85
MAINE-Statewide	585.3	572.3	577.3	552.5	544.3	542.7	32.8	28.0	34.6	5.6	4.9	6.0
MAJOR LABOR MARKETS												
Bangor MSA	40,400	39,700	40,700	38,400	37,800	38,600	2,000	1,900	2,100	5.0	4.8	5.2
Lewiston-Auburn MSA	40,600	40,400	40,500	37,000	38,000	36,700	3,600	2,400	3,800	8.9	5.9	9.4
Portland MSA	117,800	115,300	115,200	114,200	112,100	111,100	3,600	3,200	4,100	3.1	2.8	3.6
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA 3/	n/a	130,880	128,370	n/a	127,380	121,390	n/a	3,500	6,980	n/a	2.7	5.4
OTHER LABOR MARKETS												
Augusta	31,920	31,350	32,290	30,170	29,830	30,460	1,750	1,520	1,830	5.5	4.8	5.7
Bath-Brunswick	26,300	26,050	26,090	25,330	25,190	24,760	970	860	1,330	3.7	3.3	5.1
Belfast	11,410	11,130	11,780	10,480	10,240	10,440	930	890	1,340	8.2	8.0	11.4
Biddeford	27,560	27,140	27,470	25,880	26,030	25,620	1,680	1,110	1,850	6.1	4.1	6.7
Boothbay Harbor-Wiscasset	15,020	14,100	14,990	14,560	13,620	14,510	460	480	480	3.1	3.4	3.2
Calais-Eastport	14,140	13,470	13,390	12,840	12,140	12,330	1,300	1,330	1,060	9.2	9.9	7.9
Caribou-Presque Isle	22,720	22,290	21,800	20,710	20,670	20,090	2,010	1,620	1,710	8.8	7.3	7.8
Central Penobscot	2,820	2,940	2,770	2,620	2,760	2,530	200	180	240	7.1	6.1	8.7
Dover-Foxcroft	6,530	6,640	6,420	6,070	6,260	5,910	460	380	510	7.0	5.7	7.9
Ellsworth	26,050	24,120	25,550	24,950	22,900	24,460	1,100	1,220	1,090	4.2	5.1	4.3
Farmington	12,050	11,410	11,710	11,030	10,530	10,620	1,020	880	1,090	8.5	7.7	9.3
Fort Kent-Allagash	5,620	5,540	5,380	5,180	4,850	4,870	440	690	510	7.8	12.5	9.5
Greenville	1,360	1,280	1,250	1,270	1,180	1,160	90	100	90	6.6	7.8	7.2
Houlton	6,310	6,260	6,310	5,850	5,850	5,840	460	410	470	7.3	6.5	7.4
Kittery-York 3/	30,020	29,400	28,390	29,590	29,090	27,920	430	310	470	1.4	1.1	1.7
Lincoln-Howland	5,610	5,580	5,520	5,220	5,190	5,100	390	390	420	7.0	7.0	7.6
Livermore Falls	4,780	4,620	5,020	4,430	4,310	4,620	350	310	400	7.3	6.7	8.0
Madawaska-Van Buren	3,970	4,170	4,010	3,660	3,810	3,730	310	360	280	7.8	8.6	7.0
Millinocket-East Millinocket	4,530	4,500	4,620	4,200	4,220	4,430	330	280	190	7.3	6.2	4.1
Norway-Paris	12,470	11,760	12,070	11,650	11,070	11,240	820	690	830	6.6	5.9	6.9
Patten-Island Falls	3,010	2,890	2,700	2,840	2,700	2,560	170	190	140	5.6	6.6	5.2
Rockland	17,790	17,620	18,650	16,980	16,630	17,730	810	990	920	4.6	5.6	4.9
Rumford	8,640	8,240	8,700	7,620	7,600	7,980	1,020	640	720	11.8	7.8	8.3
Sanford	15,740	15,590	16,070	14,790	14,820	14,740	950	770	1,330	6.0	4.9	8.3
Sebago Lakes Region	14,900	13,050	12,810	14,380	12,650	12,310	520	400	500	3.5	3.1	3.9
Skowhegan	22,860	23,140	22,420	20,530	21,580	20,190	2,330	1,560	2,230	10.2	6.7	9.9
Southwest Penobscot	9,910	10,550	10,110	8,870	9,800	8,860	1,040	750	1,250	10.5	7.1	12.4
Waterville	22,410	22,100	22,570	21,190	20,900	21,340	1,220	1,200	1,230	5.4	5.4	5.4
OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES												
Connecticut	n/a	1,765.1	1,720.2	n/a	1,699.4	1,629.0	n/a	65.7	91.2	n/a	3.7	5.3
Massachusetts	3,143.0	3,075.0	3,116.7	3,023.0	2,961.2	2,983.0	120.0	113.9	133.7	3.8	3.7	4.3
New Hampshire	576.0	571.7	553.0	554.5	553.4	524.7	21.5	18.3	28.3	3.7	3.2	5.1
Rhode Island	504.3	510.4	502.8	483.9	491.8	473.9	20.4	18.6	28.9	4.0	3.6	5.7
Vermont	285.1	284.7	277.1	273.9	272.2	264.7	11.2	12.5	12.4	3.9	4.4	4.5
NEW ENGLAND STATES	n/a	6,779.3	6,747.1	n/a	6,522.3	6,418.0	n/a	257.0	329.1	n/a	3.8	4.9
UNITED STATES 4/	120,303	119,644	117,536	111,832	110,869	108,854	8,471	8,775	8,682	7.0	7.3	7.4

MSA Metropolitan Statistical Area

Note: n/a indicates that the information was not available at the time of printing. Employment and unemployment may not add to labor force due to rounding.

Footnotes

^{1/} Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all areas not seasonally adjusted. Estimates made independently for each labor market area have been benchmarked to and extrapolated from the Current Population Survey estimates for the state. All data adjusted to place of residence basis. Excludes members of the Armed Forces.

^{2/} Current and last month figures preliminary; year ago figures revised.

^{3/} Kittery-York is the eight-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.

^{4/} National estimates based on a sample of household visits; state estimates based on enlargements of employment figures reported.

THESE DATA ARE COMPILED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

Labor Market Information Services



EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

STATISTICAL

DATA

SERIES: ES-7-86

JULY 1986

SUPPLEMENT TO THE STATEWIDE MONTHLY NEWS RELEASE

A BRIEF ANALYSIS COVERING SELECTED MAINE LABOR MARKET AREAS

AUGUSTA LABOR MARKET AREA

Boosted by seasonal gains in the nonmanufacturing sector, resident employment in the Augusta Labor Market Area rose in July. However, at the same time, unemployment also rose from 1,520 to 1,750. The resulting unemployment rate climbed to 5.5 percent from 4.8 percent in June. The statewide unemployment rate also rose from June to July, gaining 0.7 percentage points to reach 5.6 percent. The national rate dipped a bit to 7.0 percent from 7.3 percent in June. A year ago, the local unemployment rate stood at 5.7 percent. At that time, there were 1,850 residents unemployed and 30,460 employed. Between June and July this year, nearly every manufacturing industry evidenced employment losses. The apparel industry sustained the greatest number of seasonal layoffs, followed by paper and allied products, textile mill products and leather and leather products. In addition, employment in local government slipped as school closings for the summer resulted in layoffs of nonteaching personnel.

BANGOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

Vacation shutdowns in leather and leather products and textile mill products and a decline in local government employment were major contributors to slightly higher unemployment in the Bangor Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in July. Resident employment increased from 37,800 in June to 38,400 in July, while the number of unemployed increased from 1,900 to 2,000. This resulted in the local unemployment rate edging upward from 4.8 percent to 5.0 percent. Last year at this time 2,100 local residents were unemployed and the unemployment rate stood at 5.2 percent. The corresponding State and national unemployment rates for July were 5.6 percent and 7.0 percent, respectively. Employment in manufacturing declined as increases in durable good manufacturing could not offset employment losses in paper and allied products, textile mill products, and leather and leather products. Some permanent layoffs occurred in leather and leather products as Viner Bros. Shoe, a manufacturer of nonrubber footwear, had substantial layoffs. This firm will be the third factory closing in this industry in the Bangor MSA in the past 12 months. In nonmanufacturing, employment growth occurred in contract construction; transportation and public utilities; finance, insurance, and real estate; and nondomestic services. On July 16th groundbreaking occurred for the \$220 million expansion of Lemforder Corporation's Brewer manufacturing facility. This expansion is expected to eventually create 220 new jobs in the Bangor MSA. Lemforder Corporation is a subsidiary of Zahnradfabrik Friedrichshafen (ZF) of West Germany and manufactures replacement parts for automobiles.

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CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE BY MAINE COUNTY

STATISTICAL DATA SERIES: CCLF 7-86

COUNTY ^{1/}	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ^{2/}			UNEMPLOYMENT			RATE			RESIDENT EMPLOYED		
	July 86	June 86	July 85	July 86	June 86	July 85	July 86	June 86	July 85	July 86	June 86	July 85
ANDROSCOGGIN	47,440	47,020	47,530	4,040	2,740	4,310	8.5	5.8	9.1	43,400	44,280	43,220
AROOSTOOK	40,660	40,240	39,320	3,320	3,210	3,040	8.2	8.0	7.7	37,340	37,030	36,280
CUMBERLAND	127,800	124,430	124,150	3,950	3,480	4,460	3.1	2.8	3.6	123,850	120,950	119,690
FRANKLIN	12,050	11,410	11,710	1,020	880	1,090	8.5	7.7	9.3	11,030	10,530	10,620
HANCOCK	26,050	24,120	25,550	1,100	1,220	1,090	4.2	5.1	4.3	24,950	22,900	24,460
KENNEBEC	52,560	51,730	53,100	2,830	2,620	2,940	5.4	5.1	5.5	49,730	49,110	50,160
KNOX	15,810	15,700	16,610	690	890	820	4.4	5.7	4.9	15,120	14,810	15,790
LINCOLN	17,540	16,550	17,570	600	590	610	3.4	3.6	3.5	16,940	15,960	16,960
OXFORD	24,050	22,470	23,180	1,890	1,360	1,640	7.9	6.1	7.1	22,160	21,110	21,540
PENOBSCOT	62,840	62,820	63,210	3,940	3,520	4,200	6.3	5.6	6.6	58,900	59,300	59,010
PISCATAQUIS	7,900	7,930	7,660	560	480	600	7.1	6.1	7.8	7,340	7,450	7,060
SAGadahoc	14,130	13,990	14,130	600	540	860	4.2	3.9	6.1	13,530	13,450	13,270
SOMERSET	22,860	23,140	22,420	2,330	1,560	2,230	10.2	6.7	9.9	20,530	21,580	20,190
WALDO	12,840	12,520	13,190	1,020	960	1,400	7.9	7.7	10.6	11,820	11,560	11,790
WASHINGTON	14,140	13,470	13,390	1,300	1,330	1,060	9.2	9.9	7.9	12,840	12,140	12,330
YORK	86,650	84,780	84,560	3,620	2,630	4,230	4.2	3.1	5.0	83,030	82,150	80,330

^{1/} Labor force, employment, and unemployment data are not seasonally adjusted. All data are on a place of residence basis. Members of the armed forces are excluded.

^{2/} Current and last month figures preliminary; year ago figures revised.

THESE DATA ARE COMPILED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
AS A FEDERAL STATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

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